modern Western medicine for the Chinese to acknowledge the superiority of Occidental surgery but for internal remedies to prefer practitioners trained in the native fashion. Western physicians have reported rather remarkable cures wrought by old-style Chinese physicians.

It is impossible to say, however, whether much of permanent value will be found in the vast store of older Chinese medical literature and whether any of it will be retained by the newer medical profession which is arising under Western tutelage.

PRINTING

For centuries the normal process by which literature has been reproduced in the Middle Kingdom has been printing. We have already seen that this epoch-making invention was developed in China hundreds of years before it was known in Europe, and, indeed—although as yet this is unproved—may have been transmitted from China to the West. Printing from movable type was known, but the preferred method and the one most extensively employed has been by incised wooden blocks. These blocks or plates are usually the size of two pages. The surface is prepared by smoothing it and then spreading over it a paste. While this surface is still moist there is placed on it, face down, a sheet of thin paper on which has been previously written the passage to be reproduced. The paper is rubbed off, leaving, in reverse form, the ink of the text. An artisan with a sharp tool cuts away all the surface but that marked by the characters and the result is a woodcut of the double page. Ink is then applied with a brush, a piece of paper is placed on the block, is made to lie smoothly and take the impression by applying a dry brush to its

back, is removed, the block is reinked, and the operation is repeated. The paper is usually thin and is printed only on one side. In binding, the leaves are folded and stitched together. The process can be very rapidly carried out, and the most skillful products are beautiful examples of the printer's art. A cheaper form of block printing was the use of clay or wax blocks, on which the text was incised. The clay or wax could be remolded and used again and again. The resulting product was artistically less desirable than that of the wooden blocks and so was used chiefly for inexpensive editions of the Peking Gazette and the corresponding provincial